



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large

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Welcoming Our New President

An American Tradition

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009, may be just another school day for you and your friends. But in Washington, D.C., there will be much excitement. That is the day our country officially welcomes a new president, Barack Obama, and vice president, Joe Biden.



President-elect
Barack Obama

Maybe you'll watch the **inauguration** (in-AHG-yur-AY-shun), or swearing-in ceremony, on television. The Mini Page studied inaugurations of past presidents to learn what you might expect to see.

The first inauguration

George Washington took the oath of office in 1789 at Federal Hall in New York City. (An **oath** is a promise.) His inauguration took place in April.

Washington set some traditions by adding the words "so help me God" to his oath and kissing the Bible that was used in the ceremony. (The president places his hand on a Bible during the oath.) Some modern presidents still keep these traditions. Some also use the same Bible that Washington used for the oath.



photo courtesy Library of Congress

A move to Washington, D.C.

Thomas Jefferson was the first president to be inaugurated in Washington, D.C., in 1801. The event took place at the Capitol Building. He broke tradition by walking to and from the ceremony instead of riding in a carriage.

For almost 30 years, new presidents have been sworn in and delivered their speeches outdoors, on the west side of the U.S. Capitol. Earlier inaugurations took place indoors or on the east or south side of the building.

A presidential speech



Harry S. Truman was the first to have his speech shown on television in 1949.

After the inauguration ceremony, the new president makes a speech, or **inaugural address**.

After the president's speech, he and the vice president lead the former president and vice president out of the Capitol.

They then go back to the Capitol for a luncheon with their families and leaders of the Congress, along with other guests.

Presidents on parade



photo courtesy Ronald Reagan Library

President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan wave during their parade in 1981. Today the president and vice president lead a parade between the Capitol and the White House.

Most inaugurations include a parade. At Abraham Lincoln's parade in 1865, African Americans were allowed to march for the first time. Women were first included in the parade in 1917 at Woodrow Wilson's second inauguration.

The presidential promise

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

— Presidential oath of office, Article II, Section 1, U.S. Constitution

Presidents Having a Ball

Inauguration events last from early morning, when many new presidents have gone to church, until late at night.

The first official **inaugural ball**, or dance, honored President James Madison in 1809. His wife, Dolley Madison, was the hostess. More than 400 tickets were sold for the event, which was held at a Washington hotel.

A fancy event

Early inaugural balls were very exciting for people in Washington, D.C. Magazines published articles about the women's dresses and the dances.

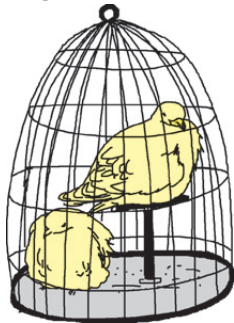


This photo shows Mary Todd Lincoln, President Lincoln's wife, in her inaugural ball gown.

photo courtesy Library of Congress

Too cold for dancing

In 1869, the ball for President Ulysses S. Grant was held in a temporary building constructed for the party. Part of the decorations were canaries in cages, but it was so cold that the birds froze!



President Woodrow Wilson canceled the 1913 inaugural ball in his honor. He thought the occasion should be more serious. In 1921, President Warren G. Harding also canceled his because he thought it cost too much.

Party time

President Harry S. Truman brought the inaugural ball back in 1949. After that, different dances were added around the city of Washington.

In 1997, President Bill Clinton was honored with 14 balls. At his second inaugural, President George W. Bush had nine parties.

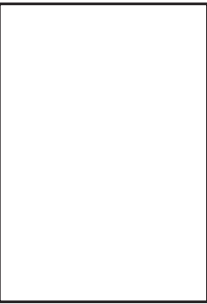


photo courtesy Library of Congress

President Jimmy Carter and Mrs. Carter dance at their inaugural ball.

Plan your own inaugural ball!

Maybe you'll be president one day. Imagine what your inaugural ball might be like and draw pictures, then share them with a friend.



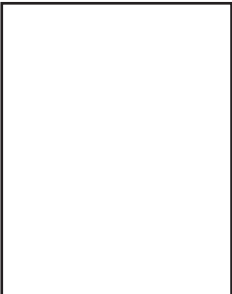
• What will you wear?



• What will you eat?



• Who will you invite?



• How will you decorate?

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Mini Spy ...



Mini Spy and her friends are attending an inauguration party. See if you can find: • man in the moon • toothbrush • fish



- feather • key
- letter D
- football
- pea pod
- letter E
- paintbrush
- teapot • ring
- letter C
- lima bean
- kite • flower
- letter L
- heart



Inauguration

TRY 'N FIND

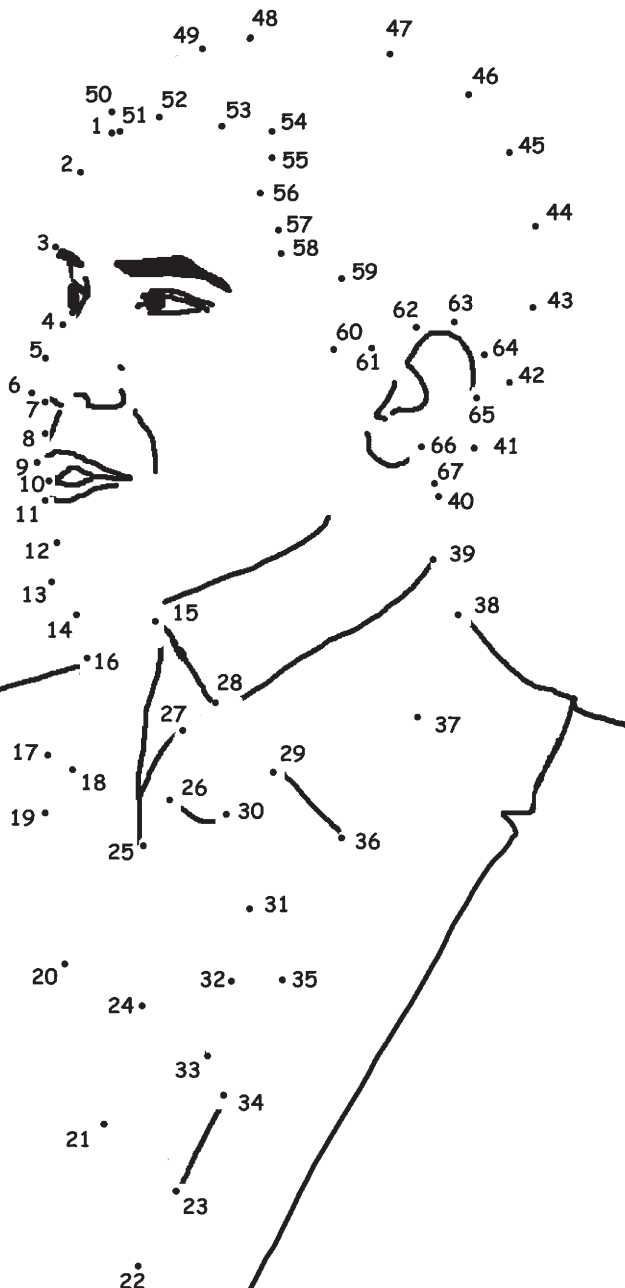
Words that remind us of the inauguration are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: PRESIDENT, INAUGURATION, OATH, WASHINGTON, NEW YORK, VICE, CAPITOL, ADDRESS, PARADE, CONSTITUTION, BRANCH, EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIAL, LINCOLN, PLATFORM, FREEDOM.



J E D A R A P L A T F O R M C
L X K A D D R E S S B W E X L
A E R V Z L E J B R A N C H I
I C O C O N S T I T U T I O N
C U Y L E G I S L A T I V E C
I T W Q B L D L O T I P A C O
D I E F R E E D O M H T A O L
U V N O T G N I H S A W K S N
J E B N O I T A R U G U A N I

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Go dot to dot and color our new president.



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Sweet Treat Sopaipilla Chips

You'll need:

- 2 small (5 1/2- to 6-inch) flour tortillas (whole-wheat or regular)
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons honey



What to do:

1. Place tortillas on top of each other and cut into 8 triangles with a pizza cutter (16 triangles in all).
2. Melt butter in microwave for 15 seconds.
3. Combine sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl.
4. Brush tortilla triangles with butter on one side and place butter side up on a cookie sheet.
5. Bake for 10 minutes at 375 degrees until triangles are slightly crisp, like chips.
6. Remove from oven. Sprinkle chips evenly with sugar and cinnamon mixture, and then drizzle with honey.

**You will need an adult's help with this recipe.*

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Meet Owen Wilson



photo by Barry Wetcher, Twentieth Century Fox

Owen Wilson stars as John Grogan in the movie "Marley and Me." He has starred in several other movies, including "Night at the Museum." His was the voice of Lightning McQueen in "Cars." He has also written several screenplays for movies.

Owen, 40, grew up in Dallas, Texas, and now lives in Los Angeles. He has two brothers, actors Andrew and Luke Wilson. Their dad runs a public television station, and their mom is a photographer.

Owen has a crooked nose — he broke it while playing football in high school. He majored in English in college.

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A KID'S GUIDE TO THE WHITE HOUSE



Betty Debnam

Kids! You're Invited to the White House

A Kid's Guide to the White House is a terrific behind-the-scenes look at a very special house.

Written with the cooperation of the White House Historical Association, the book is full of fun information, photos (some in full color) and puzzles that kids of all ages will enjoy.

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MIGHTY
FUNNY'S

Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Iris: What do we call a fender-bender when it happens to the president's car?

Paul: A president!



Patrick: What sounds like a piece of sports equipment but is really a big dance?

Sherman: The inaugural ball!

Gabe: Why is the inauguration such a clean event?

Tony: Because it's in Washington!



Inauguration Day

Who takes part?

There are three branches, or parts, of the U.S. government. Each of the branches takes part in the inauguration of a new president.

- The **executive branch** (the president and vice president) makes sure that our laws are obeyed.

- The **legislative branch** (the Senate and the House of Representatives) makes the laws.

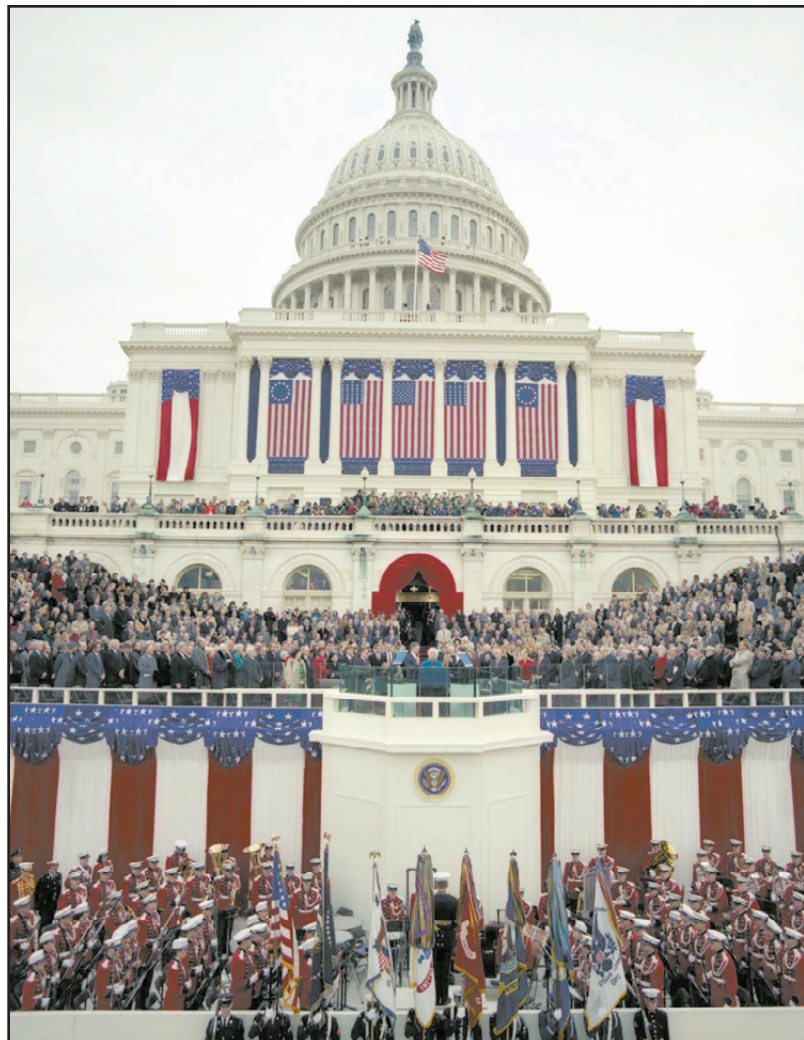
Members of the Congress are in charge of planning the ceremony. All 534 members of the Senate and House will be seated on the platform to the left and right of the podium.

- The **judicial branch** (the courts) makes sure that the laws follow our Constitution.

The chief justice of the United States usually directs the taking of the oath.



Chief Justice
John Roberts



President George H.W. Bush was inaugurated in 1989 on the west front of the U.S. Capitol. He is standing in the middle of the photo, above the seal of the president. Members of Congress and other officials are standing to the left and right of him. The U.S. Marine Band is below, dressed in red uniforms.

photo courtesy George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

Remembering Lincoln

The theme of this year's ceremony is "A New Birth of Freedom." Those words were spoken by President Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg Address in 1863, when he said "this nation shall have a new birth of freedom."

The theme was chosen partly to honor Lincoln's 200th birthday, Feb. 12, 2009.

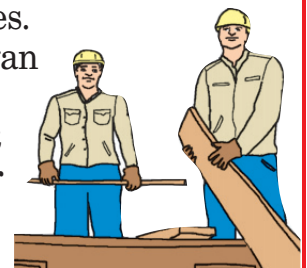
Inaugural fact-a-roonies

- Barack Obama will be the 44th president of the United States. His will be the 56th presidential inauguration.



- More than 5,000 members of the military will take part in the ceremonies and provide security and other services.

- Workers began building the platform in front of the Capitol for the inaugural ceremony in late September, before the election.



The vice president's oath

Before the president is sworn in, the vice president takes his oath:

"I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter."

— Vice presidential oath of office, used since 1884



Vice President-elect
Joe Biden

The Mini Page thanks Lee Ann Potter, director of education and volunteer programs at the National Archives and Records Administration, and Carole Florman, communications director, Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, for help with this issue.

Look in your newspaper for articles about the upcoming inauguration.

Sites to see:

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/government/branches.html>

<http://inaugural.senate.gov/index.cfm>

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Read all about
the inauguration



photo courtesy George Bush
Presidential Library and Museum

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by Betty Debnam

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(Note to Editor: Above is camera-ready, one column-by-3 1/2-inch ad promoting Issue 2.)

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2-5 (09)

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**Standards Spotlight:
An American Tradition**

Mini Page activities meet many state and national educational standards. Each week we identify standards that relate to The Mini Page's content and offer activities that will help your students reach them.

This week's standards:

- Students identify key ideals of the United States' democratic republican form of government. (Social Studies: Civic Ideals and Practices)
- Students understand the ideas, principles and practices of citizenship in a democratic republic. (Social Studies: Civics)

Activities:

1. Cut out a newspaper photo of President-elect Barack Obama. Paste it at the top of a piece of paper. Now find information about the new president in the newspaper. Write facts about Mr. Obama under his picture on your paper.
2. Look through your newspaper for stories about Vice President-elect Joe Biden. Use a colored marker to circle five facts about Mr. Biden.
3. Divide a piece of paper into three columns. Label the columns: Official Events, Entertainment and Food. Now look through the newspaper to learn about the different things that will happen during the inauguration. Write the information you find under each column.
4. How would you celebrate the inauguration if it were held in your community? Use newspaper stories and ads to find (a) where you could have the swearing-in ceremony, (b) three restaurants where people could eat, (c) a place to have a big dance, and (d) three local people you would invite to the events.
5. The inauguration includes the swearing-in ceremony, a parade and many balls. How would you design an alternate inauguration? You have to have a swearing-in, but what would you do instead of a parade and balls? Write a paragraph describing your inaugural event.

(standards by Dr. Sherrye D. Garrett, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi)

(Note to Editor: Above is the Standards for Issue 2.)



TM

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Height: 5-11
Weight: 195

Birthdate: 11-3-87
Hometown: Clinton, Md.

On a questionnaire from North Carolina's sports information department, the Tar Heel basketball players were asked to name their ESPN SportsCenter highlight dream.

Point guard Ty Lawson wrote: "Dunking on somebody, shattering the (backboard) glass, then running into the crowd. Then everybody starts to dance."

Even if Ty doesn't do that, he has already made enough great plays to fill several highlight reels. Lawson is quick as a blink and resembles a blur on fast breaks. He sets up teammates with penetration and passes, hits long jumpers, and isn't afraid to take the ball to the basket, where the game's giants hang out. All that makes Lawson one of the premier players in the country on the nation's No. 1-ranked team.

Lawson, a junior majoring in exercise and sports science, worked to improve his shooting during the off-season. His goal is to play in the NBA. But now, he wants to help North Carolina win another national title and give Tar Heel fans a reason to dance.

(Note to Editor: Above is copy block for Page 3, Issue 2, to be used in place of ad if desired.)

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